

1. Consider the following statements. Chemical fertilizers:
 1. Provide minerals that are retained in the soil forever
 2. Help in the rapid growth of bacteria and other microorganisms to restore the natural fertility of soil
 Which of the above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) None
2. What is the highest point on Earth as measured from 'Earth's centre'?
 - (a) Top of Mount Chimborazo
 - (b) Karakoram
 - (c) Mauna Kea
 - (d) Summit of Mount Everest
3. The committees that have worked or are working towards evolving the National Education Policy lately are
 1. Gadgil committee
 2. Kasturirangan committee
 3. Subramaniam Panel
 4. Shome Committee
 Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - (a) 1 and 4 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 1, 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 3 and 4 only
4. Sea level rise at specific locations may be more or less than the global average due to many factors. Which of these factors can create differences between local sea level and global sea level?
 1. Local land subsidence
 2. Ocean currents
 3. Variations in land height
 Select the correct answer using the codes below.
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) 2 and 3 only
 - (d) 1, 2 and 3
5. Consider the following statements.
 1. In the Solar system planets, only Jupiter and Saturn have rings around them.
 2. The rings surrounding the solar system planet are large enough to be visible from naked eyes.
 Which of the above is/are correct?
 - (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 only
 - (c) Both 1 and 2
 - (d) None
6. The Union Ministry of Science and Technology has launched SOHUM. What is it?
 - (a) A drought free breed of rice that can be grown all round the year
 - (b) A family planning kit that will be distributed free of cost in rural areas
 - (c) An indigenously developed low-cost hearing screening device for newborns
 - (d) A compendium of scientific practices from the Vedas and Puranas

7. Under National Adaptation Fund for Climate Change (NAFCC)
1. Cent per cent central grant is given to the State Governments for implementing climate change adaptation projects
 2. United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and associated agencies have committed to contributing fifty per cent of the budget
- Which of the above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None
8. Recently a hybrid material was synthesised by scientists from IISER combining polyhedral oligomeric silsesquioxane (POSS) and diphenylalanine. What is the special property of this hybrid?
- (a) It is an organic plastic.
(b) It is fire and rust resistant.
(c) It is a metal that is lighter in density than water.
(d) It is a radioactive material with infinite half-life.
9. Which of these have a bearing on inland waterway governance in India?
1. National Waterways Act, 2016
 2. Inland Vessels (Amendment) Act, 2007
 3. Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
- (a) 1 and 2 only
(b) 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3
10. Consider the following about the Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI).
1. It was established as a statutory authority under the provisions of the Aadhaar Act, 2016.
 2. It is an attached office of NITI Aayog.
- Which of the above is/are correct?
- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only
(c) Both 1 and 2 (d) None
11. United States Navy successfully tested the world's first-ever active Laser Weapons System (LaWS). Consider the following about it.
1. It operates within an invisible part of the electromagnetic spectrum.
 2. It is absolutely silent in its operation.
 3. It does not require electrical power and operates by converting sun's rays into laser beams.
 4. Its system has special materials that release photons at the speed of light.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
- (a) 1, 2 and 4 only
(b) 2 and 3 only
(c) 1 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
12. Article 142 in the Constitution of India was recently in news. This article empowers
- (a) The supreme court to pass order as necessary for doing complete justice in any cause
(b) The Union government to overtake core functions of the state government in case of President's rule
(c) The Governor of a state to reject claims of government formation if the claim is not bonafide
(d) The local bodies to take over the peripheral civic functions of district administration

13. What s/are the differences between physical capital and human capital?
1. Human capital cannot be used as factor of production whereas physical capital can be.
 2. A nation's physical capital cannot grow over time whereas human capital can.
 3. Physical capital cannot be organized unlike human capital.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
- (a) 1 only
 - (b) 2 and 3 only
 - (c) 2 only
 - (d) None of the above
14. "Protection and Preservation of Endangered Languages of India' (SPPEL) is a government initiative. Consider the following about it.
1. It was instituted by Ministry of Tribal affairs.
 2. It aims to document and archive the country's languages that have become endangered or are likely to be.
 3. Languages identified under SPPEL will be added to the Eighth schedule of the Constitution.
- Select the correct answer using the codes below.
- (a) 2 only
 - (b) 1 and 3 only
 - (c) 3 only
 - (d) 1 and 2 only
15. Consider the following statements. Assertion (A): The literacy rates in India have increased from nearly 50% in 1951 to about 75% in 2010-11. Reason (R): Public expenditure on education as a percentage of GDP has consistently increased from 1951 levels in India. In the context of the above, which of these is correct?
- (a) A is correct, and R is an appropriate explanation of A.
 - (b) A is correct, but R is not an appropriate explanation of A.
 - (c) A is incorrect, but R is correct.
 - (d) Both A and R are incorrect.

ANSWER KEYS

01 d 02 a 03 b 04 d 05 d 06 c 07 a 08 b 09 d 10 a
 11 a 12 a 13 d 14 a 15 d